

National African American Arts & Entertainment Hall of Fame & Museum

at



Both Newark and Newark Symphony Hall have a rich and storied cultural legacy that deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Historically, Newark has provided the world with some of its greatest African American artists and performers. In turn, many of the world's greatest African American artists have performed at Newark Symphony Hall, New Jersey's most historic performing arts center. This legacy legitimizes and "earns the right" for Newark and Newark Symphony Hall to be the home of the National African American Arts and Entertainment Hall of Fame.



Vision: A dynamic institution that celebrates the cultural contributions of legendary members of the African American community while fostering the development of emerging artists in the fine and performing arts. While drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, it will also provide a nurturing and educational environment for youth from greater Newark who aspire in the fields of literary, visual and performing arts. Annually, the Hall of Fame induction week events and ceremonies will draw global attention and national television coverage to the city of Newark and also to the many cultural contributions of its native sons and daughters



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Concept: Transform the thousands of square feet of unused/abandoned space in Newark Symphony Hall's non-performance spaces into the incubator home of the hall of fame and museum.



Converting areas that have been vacant for decades into open, flexible use, white box space that can be used for exhibits, meetings, workshops, lectures, classes, rehearsals, social events and small performances will vastly expand the current and future utility of the overall Newark Symphony Hall complex to the community while facilitating the nascent hall of fame and museum.



Funding/Feasibility: Embracing the mission of a national hall of fame opens the doors to new sources of national foundation and corporate support that will expand the philanthropic pool of funding for Newark's renaissance. The hall of fame brand will not only attract performers to Newark, it will enable Newark to launch branded events, shows and exhibits presented/staged nationally, generating operating income for the hall of fame and positive visibility for the city of Newark.



Community: Newark Symphony Hall's current public/performance spaces would continue to be broadly available and programmed multi-culturally as they have been in the past. In fact, with restoration /renovation they will be more actively sought after and utilized by diverse members of the community.

The utilization of the abandoned spaces will particularly benefit the youth of our community as they will be used in an educational capacity to foster, support, encourage and showcase emerging talent. Newark Symphony Hall will serve as the cultural hub that catalytically supports redevelopment of the Broad Street/Lincoln Park neighborhood south of Newark City Hall.

Leadership/Timing: Our mayor has publicly embraced arts, culture and tourism as significant economic and social drivers for Newark's success and his family shares in Newark's cultural legacy. Newark has already developed momentum and demonstrated progress that has attracted private sector investments and development. This initiative will expand that economic momentum into an expanded footprint and contribute to even greater growth for Newark.



A Few Names From Newark's Legacy:

Dionne Warwick * Whitney Houston * Queen Latifah * Sarah Vaughan * James Moody * Savion Glover * John Amos
Michael B. Jordan * Richard Wesley * Wyclef John * Valerie Wilson-Wesley * Lauren Hill * Fugees * Melba Moore
Amiri Baraka * Shaquille O'Neal * Tisha Campbell * Keisha Knight Pulliam * Naturi Naughton * Naughty by Nature